SAC, New York (100-4013)

October 12, 1961

Director, FBI (100-436291)

declassified
2040
7/21/77
HQ

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
INTERNAL SECURITY - SWP
DISRUPTION PROGRAM

The Socialist Workers Party (SWP) has, over the past several years, been openly espousing its line on a local and national basis through running candidates for public office and strongly directing and/or supporting such causes as Castro's Cuba and integration problems arising in the South. The SWP has also been in frequent contact with international Trotskyite groups stopping short of open and direct contact with these groups. The youth group of the SWP has also been operating on this basis in connection with SWP policies.

Offices receiving copies of this letter are participating in the Bureau's Communist Party, USA, Counterintelligence Program. It is felt that a disruption program along similar lines could be initiated against the SWP on a very selective basis. One of the purposes of this program would be to alert the public to the fact that the SWP is not just another socialist group but follows the revolutionary principles of Marx, Lenin and Engels as interpreted by Leon Trotsky.

It is pointed out, however, that this program is not intended to be a "crash" program. Only carefully thought-out operations with the widest possible effect and benefit to the nation should be submitted. It may be desirable to expand the program after the effects have been evaluated.

Each office is, therefore, requested to carefully evaluate such a program and submit their views to the Bureau regarding initiating a SWP disruption program on a limited basis.

2 - Chicago
2 - Detroit
2 - Los Angeles
2 - Newark

MCT:cgo (11)

REC-39 100-436291-1

43 OCT 12 1961

Classified by [redacted]
Exempt from GDS Category [redacted]
Date of Declassification Indefinite

COMM-FBI

MAIL ROOM ☑ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

SLIP(S) OF PAPER ATTACHED

DELETED COPY SENT USA, NYC, FOR RELEASE TO PLAINTIFFS IN SWP CIVIL SUIT BY LETTER DATED 3-22-77 (CIVIL ACTION FILE) 80-4

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-16) DATE: 10/20/61

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-146608)

SUBJECT: SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY (SWP)
IS - SWP
DISRUPTION PROGRAM

ReBurlet to NY and other offices, dated 10/12/61.

Relet instructed NY and other offices having major SWP activity to evaluate a program aimed at disruption of the SWP and to submit views to the Bureau regarding this matter.

The NYO has given careful thought to this matter and it is felt that on a carefully selective basis, issues could be exploited which may well serve to disrupt the SWP and render it more impotent as a functioning organization.

FBI conducts review of candidate's criminal history

Careful consideration has been given to the fact that the SWP in New York City is now getting some propaganda attention through the press, television and radio because it has succeeded in placing on the ballot four candidates for office in the New York City fall elections. With this background in mind, a review has been made of the candidates chosen by the SWP to represent it on the ballot and it has been found that one of them, [redacted] appears to be particularly vulnerable in causing embarrassment to the SWP.

[redacted] has a criminal record which includes such offenses as larceny, burglary, drunkenness and a murder charge which was later reduced to manslaughter.

Address 1351 Fulton St. Brooklyn N.Y.

(2) - Bureau (100-16) (Encls. 4) (RM)
1 - NY 100-138384
1 - NY 100-146608 (413)

GPB:rvs
(4)

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

100-436291-3
100-16-1377

REC-9

10 OCT 23 1961

X

DELETED COPY SENT USA, NYC.
FOR RELEASE TO PLAINTIFFS IN
SWP CIVIL SUIT BY LETTER
DATED FEB 23 1976 AND FILED
IN 100-(SWP MAIN FILE)

These offenses took place during the years 1949-1956 in Albany, NY, prior to the time [redacted] moved to NY and became connected with the SWP. As a result, his prior criminal record is not known to the rank and file of the SWP and quite possibly is also unknown to the Party leadership.

When the SWP newspaper, "The Militant", introduced [redacted] as a candidate, he was described as accusing the Democrats and Republicans of dipping their hands into graft and of offering himself as an alternative to this. "The Militant" further set forth that the SWP candidates were on the side of the honest and productive people of the City and against those who insisted on enjoying privileges at other people's expense.

The SWP has consistently printed that it consistently maintained a high principled position over the years and was, contrary to other radical groups, a Party of consistent integrity.

Leaks criminal history to accomplices in the media

It is felt that it is quite possible a considerable disruptive effect would result if it should become public knowledge that [redacted] the candidate chosen by the SWP to represent it on the ballot, was a convicted thief and murderer. It is not believed that it would be necessary to give any large display to information of this sort, there is no doubt that a short item in the back pages of a metropolitan NY newspaper would quickly become well known within the SWP and related groups. It is believed that the effect of such a public revealment could possibly result in the following:

1. Among the SWP membership, there could well be a feeling of disillusionment with the leadership of the Party for running such an individual as a candidate as well as distrust of [redacted] himself because of his past record.

2. Among the SWP's opponents in the radical field, there has always been an undercurrent of vindictive feeling and it is quite likely that the Communist Party (CP) or a rival Trotskyist group would seize upon an issue such as the [redacted] case to attack the principles of the SWP.

3. From the point of view from the public at large, it would seem that anyone reading an item regarding the [redacted] candidacy could hardly help but have a lower opinion of the SWP.

With pre-written suggested storyline

There is submitted for consideration by the Bureau a sample of the type of story which might be submitted to a friendly newspaper in this regard:

"One of the minor entries in the New York City municipal elections is the candidate of the [redacted]. He was introduced in the Party's newspaper 'The Militant' in the issue of [redacted], as being 'On the side of the honest productive people of the City'. [redacted] accused the Democracts and Republicans of dipping their hands in graft and he offered himself as an alternative.

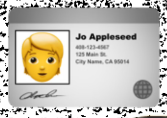
"In giving his background and qualifications, [redacted] omitted some facts in regard to honesty and productivity which are a matter of record to the Albany Police Department. Under his full name of [redacted], he accumulated an arrest record beginning with petit larceny in 1949, burglary and grand larceny in 1951, drunkenness in 1954 and murder in 1956.

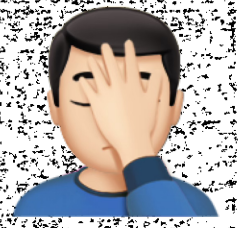
"In especially considering its small size, it would appear the SWP takes all honors in fielding the candidate least well qualified for the office to which he aspires."

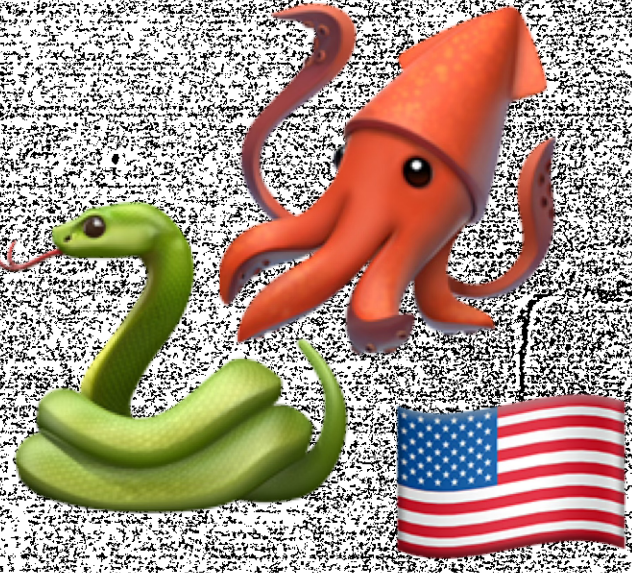
There are enclosed for the Bureau a copy of the FD 9 setting forth [redacted] FBI fingerprint record and pertinent articles printed in "The Militant" of [redacted] regarding [redacted]

It is recommended that the Bureau furnish the above information to one of its contacts in the newspaper field. However, if this course of action is not considered favorably in this instance, it is suggested that the Bureau consider allowing NY to furnish the information to a friendly newspaper in the NY area. Should this procedure be agreeable to the Bureau, a copy of the photograph of [redacted] taken by the Albany, NY Police Department, 7/23/52, would be furnished the newspaper contact with the suggestion that [redacted] be interviewed by a reporter of the newspaper in order that he may make his own determination that the individual running for public office on the SWP ticket is identical with the individual on whom the extensive criminal record exists.

For the information of the Bureau, a new file has been opened by the NYO on captioned case and this office will continue to give well thought out attention to develop all possibilities in the future which might serve to have a disruptive effect on the SWP.







FD-9 (Rev. 1 -56)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This form may be submitted in legible hand-printing.
2. Use separate form for each individual on whom record is requested.
3. Make effort to furnish FBI Identification Number or Law Enforcement Identification Number.
4. Furnish descriptive data and fingerprint classification only when FBI Number not available.
5. Indicate office for reply in lower-left corner only. Also list in lower-left corner all offices which should receive copies of available records. Include carbon of revised FD-9 for each office receiving copies and forward with original to Bureau.
6. Do not fill in block in lower-right corner.
7. Where available furnish Law Enforcement Identification Number and Military Service Number.

To: DIRECTOR, FBI Attention: Identification Division

Date 1/11/60

Re [redacted]

Furnish the Kn[redacted]ion Record of the Following:

Name [redacted] FBI No.

Other No.

Aliases [redacted] 6'3"x14

Sex [redacted] Birth Date Birthplace Residence

Height 5'11" Weight 165 Build Medium Hair Black Eyes Blue Complexion Fair Age 28

Fingerprint Classification 1 M /

Scars, marks and tattoos

Also Furnish:

- ☐ Photo
- ☐ Fingerprints
- ☐ Handwriting Specimens

286-449-A

Return Reply to:

SAC, New York

Send Copies To: FBIHQ

100-138389-210

SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED

FBI - NEW YORK

Identification Division's Reply 1/13/60

- ☐ On basis of information furnished, unable to identify:
  - ☐ Criminal Files ☐ Civil Files ☐ All Files
- ☑ Record Attached
- ☐ Photo Attached
- ☐ Photo Not Available
- ☐ Fingerprints Attached
- ☑ Handwriting Specimen Attached

DELETED COPY SENT USA, NYC, FOR RELEASE TO PLAINTIFFS IN SWP CIVIL SUIT BY LETTER DATED FEB 26 1975 AND FILED IN 100-16 (SWP MAIN FILE).

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: October 27, 1961

FROM : Mr. F. J. Baumgardner

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Gregg
1 - Mr. Bland
1 - Mr. Baumgardner
[redacted]

SUBJECT: SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
INTERNAL SECURITY - SWP
DISRUPTION PROGRAM

In response to a Bureau-initiated suggestion, the New York Office by letter dated 10/20/61 submitted for the Bureau's consideration a Socialist Workers Party (SWP) Disruption Program operation designed to cause embarrassment to the SWP and to the SWP candidate for Manhattan Borough President, New York City [redacted]

The SWP (designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450) is running candidates for election to municipal offices of New York City. A review of the background of the candidates disclosed that [redacted] was particularly vulnerable in causing embarrassment to the SWP in view of his criminal record which includes such offenses as larceny, burglary, drunkenness and a murder charge which was reduced to manslaughter. These offenses took place during the years 1949 through 1956 at Albany, New York, prior to [redacted]'s move to New York City and his association with the SWP. His criminal record is quite possibly unknown to the SWP rank-and-file members as well as the SWP leadership.

The SWP newspaper, "The Militant," in introducing [redacted] as a candidate, described [redacted] as accusing the major political parties of dipping their hands into graft and offering himself [redacted] as an alternative. "The Militant" also set forth that SWP candidates were on the side of honest and productive people and against those who insisted on enjoying privileges at other peoples' expense.

The SWP is receiving some attention through the press, television and radio due to its success in placing its candidates on the ballot for office in the New York City elections.

New York suggests that an article be disseminated to a friendly newspaper pointing out [redacted] criminal background. New York also suggests that if the above article is not desirable that a friendly newspaper in the New York area be contacted with the suggestion that a reporter interview [redacted] to make a self-determination regarding [redacted] extensive criminal record.

REC-52 100-433629-4

It is felt that the suggested article would have considerable disruptive effect upon the SWP leadership and membership as well as upon any sympathizers who may be thinking of offering support through the elections.

CLOSURE See Reverse Side for Dissemination. 112 sent 10-30-61

100-433629
Enclosures - 2
1 - 100-433957
TPR:cdb (10)

[redacted]

10 NOV 1 1961

66 NOV 3 1961

EX-[illegible]

The SWP has met with little or no opposition in carrying forth its aims and purposes and in securing positions on the ballot for its candidates. It is felt that some disruptive action should be taken so that innocent citizens will become aware that the SWP favors revolutionary socialism and not socialism which may be brought about through democratic processes. This Disruption Program operation should prove highly beneficial in disrupting the activities of the SWP on a national as well as local level.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. There is attached a suggested article to be furnished to a friendly newspaper contact in the New York City area through Mr. DeLoach's office.

Handled 10/30/61 D

2. There is attached for your approval a letter to the New York Office commenting on the excellent manner in which this suggestion was prepared and advising that this matter will be handled through Bureau sources.

1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Gregg
1 - Mr. Blair
1 - Mr. Baumgardner
1 - [redacted]

October 27, 1961

CANDIDATE FAILS TO GIVE COMPLETE BACKGROUND

One of the minor entries in the New York City municipal elections is [redacted], the candidate of the Socialist Workers Party for Manhattan Borough President. He was introduced in the Party's newspaper "The Militant," issues of July 24 and 31, 1961, as being "On the side of the honest productive people of the City." [redacted] accused the Democrats and Republicans of dipping their hands in graft and offered himself as an alternative.

In giving his background and qualifications, [redacted] omitted some facts in regard to honesty and productivity which are a matter of record with the Albany Police Department. Under his full name of [redacted], he accumulated an arrest record beginning with petit larceny in 1949, burglary and grand larceny in 1951, drunkenness in 1954 and murder in 1956, which charge was reduced to manslaughter. He was paroled from Clinton Prison on January 27, 1959.

In especially considering its small size, it would appear the SWP takes all honors in fielding the candidate least qualified for the office to which he aspires.

The Trotskyites, by which name the Socialist Workers Party is more commonly known, are a militantly revolutionary group which follows the lines of Marx, Engels and Lenin as interpreted by Leon Trotsky rather than by Joseph Stalin. Like the communists, however, the Trotskyites call for the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of world-wide socialism. The Socialist Workers Party, which was founded in 1938 and is the largest of the Trotskyite groups, is cited on the Attorney General's list of subversive organizations.

1 - 100-433957 [redacted]

NOTE ON YELLOW:

See cover memo Baumgardner to Sullivan captioned, "Socialist Workers Party, Internal Security - SWP, Disruption Program," same date, TPR:cdb.

TPR:cdb
(12)

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

ENCLOSURE
100-433957-1

DECLASSIFIED BY [redacted]
FOR RELEASE TO PLAINTIFFS IN
SWP CIVIL SUIT BY LETTER
DATED FEB 26 1975 AND FILED
IN 100-16 (SWP MAIN FILE). 9pm 1/5/76

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-16)

DATE: 10/27/61

FROM : SAC, NEWARK (100-1984)

SUBJECT: SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
IS - SWP
DISRUPTION PROGRAM

Re Bureau letter to New York dated 10/12/61.

[redacted] is the SWP candidate for [redacted] of New Jersey, and SWP candidates are also seeking public office in New York and elsewhere. In connection with her campaign [redacted] has appeared on television in New York and she regularly issues press releases which appear in Newark newspapers.

It is suggested that the Bureau furnish to the Attorney General a list of television stations, radio stations, and newspapers which are affording publicity to the SWP candidates and request that he send a list of the organizations designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450 to the officials of these companies, pointing out the fact that the SWP is contained in the list. The Attorney General could suggest that the announcers and editors could perform a public service by reporting to the public that the SWP has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450 immediately following the statements made by SWP candidates.

The Newark SWP is distributing a campaign leaflet on behalf of [redacted]. The last page of this leaflet has a form to be filled out with the name and address of anyone who desires to (1) donate money to the campaign, (2) participate in campaign activities, and (3) get more information about the SWP. This form is to be sent to Socialist Workers Party, P.O. Box 361, Newark 1, New Jersey. It is anticipated that copies of this leaflet will be obtained and a letter will be directed to the Bureau under the caption of CP, USA, Counter-intelligence Program requesting authority to mail these forms to the SWP with the names of selected CP members written thereon.

Newark will continue to be alert to situations which will afford an opportunity to disrupt the SWP and the CP, USA, and the Bureau will be advised of any contemplated action.

100-428211-2

2) - Bureau (RM)
1 - Newark
DWA/jtm
(3)

REC-36 OCT 30 1961

FBI - NEWARK

To:

From:

Subject:

SAC, New York (100-146608)

Director, FBI (100-436291)-3

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
INTERNAL SECURITY - SWP
DISRUPTION PROGRAM

October 30, 1961

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Gregg
1 - Mr. Bland
1 - Mr. Baumgardner

Hidden election interference

[redacted]

Reurlet 10/20/61 captioned as above and submitting for Bureau consideration a Disruption Program operation aimed at causing embarrassment to the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), its leaders and its membership.

100

This suggestion is an excellent example of the type desired by the Bureau under the Disruption Program. The Bureau is pleased to note that the suggestion was well thought out and it is felt that if future suggestions are submitted with the same amount of preparation and planning, this program will be exceedingly successful.

The necessary action has been taken at the Bureau to carry out your suggestion. No steps should be taken by you concerning this operation. Should any tangible results come to your attention as a result of Bureau-initiated action in this matter, the Bureau should be advised promptly.

1 - 100-433957
[redacted]
TPR:cdb
(12)

NOTE ON YELLOW:

See cover memo Baumgardner to Sullivan, same caption, dated 10/27/61, TPR:cdb.

MAILED 8
OCT 30 1961
COMM-FBI

TELETYPE UNIT

57 NOV 3 1961

NOR RELEASE TO PLAINTIFF
SW. CIVIL SUIT BY LETTER
DATED FEB 25 1975 AND
IN 100-16 (SWP MAIN FILE)

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-433957

SAC, Newark (100-1984) November 6, 1961

REC- 127

Director, FBI (100-436291)

EX-113

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
INTERNAL SECURITY - SWP
DISRUPTION PROGRAM

Reurlet 10-27-61, captioned as above, suggesting that the Bureau furnish to the Attorney General a list of television stations, radio stations and newspapers affording publicity to Socialist Workers Party (SWP) candidates in the current election and requesting the Attorney General to send a list of organizations designated pursuant to Exeuctive Order 10450 to these facilities pointing out that the SWP is contained on the list so that these outlets could announce the SWP's designation immediately following statements made by the SWP candidates.

The Bureau does not feel that this suggestion is practical and, therefore, no action is being taken regarding your suggestion. It is desired that only those disruption operations which may be carried out by the Bureau or through established Bureau sources be used. You should consider this matter in submitting future recommendations.

For your information, a Disruption Program operation submitted by the New York Office has been initiated by the Bureau which will afford publicity concerning the true nature of the SWP and the fact that it has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450. This operation is in connection with the candidacy of [redacted] SWP candidate for Manhattan Borough [redacted] New York City. As the present media originating in New York City will undoubtedly reach individuals residing in your territory, it is felt that this operation will have considerable effect upon the SWP election campaign in New Jersey.

Should pertinent developments come to your attention regarding the above-mentioned disruption program, you should advise the Bureau and the New York Office.

TPR:bgc
(4)

MAILED 10
NOV 3 - 1961
COMM-FBI

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Room
Holmes
Gandy

8 NOV 7 1961